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# Stadium field upgrades still overbudget



The Lake Havasu Knights practice before a 2015 game at Lee Barnes Stadium.

## School board to hear more firm numbers Tuesday

**By DAVID LOUIS**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

With improvements to the field at Lee Barnes Stadium still over budget, Lake Havasu Unified School District is considering how to overcome the deficit and keep promises made to taxpayers who agreed to a bond measure to pay for the upgrade.

School district officials believe they can continue to offset the

field's funding gap with money that was earmarked for other bond projects, which have instead been paid for by the Arizona School Facilities Board.

To date, the School Facilities Board has offset nearly \$2 million in bond projects such as weatherization at Lake Havasu High School.

That's the good news, said School Board President John Masden.

The bad news, Masden said, is that it's "unfortunate prior boards and administrators did not fully investigate the athletic field costs."

In November 2016, voters approved a \$49 million school bond, with athletics receiving \$5.3 million for improvements to the stadium, the high school's main baseball and softball fields, as well as maintenance and resurfacing, and track improvements at

**See OVERBUDGET, Page 5**

# CHANCE OF A LIFETIME



Lake Havasu High School junior Chris Hall plays trumpet during jazz band rehearsals Wednesday. Hall has been chosen to join a world-renowned marching band during its 2018 competition season.

## High school trumpeter joins elite marching band

**By DAVID LOUIS**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Lake Havasu High School junior Chris Hall, a virtuoso with the trumpet, is about to embark on the musical opportunity of a lifetime.

Recently, the 16-year-old was offered a contract to perform with the Arizona Academy of Performing Arts Drum and Bugle Corps for the 2018 competition season. Playing trumpet since the second grade, Hall is humbled with the chance to join the pinnacle of competition marching bands.

"I am proud of myself," Hall said. "But, I look up to the people who are

superior to me and ask for guidance from them all of the time. I am very humbled by this, but it's very cool."

The Academy attracts students, ages 16-21, from all over the world to join its ranks. The elite band, based in Tempe, finished 14th in the nation last season at the Drum Corps International championships, the best finish in the 17-year history of the program.

There are 200 members in this year's show, with Hall accepted as one of the group's lead trumpet players. More than 200 tried out for the trumpet section, with 24 selected.

With training to compete already underway, The Academy will begin

its season in July in Mesa before it takes to the road for competitions held across the country. The tour culminates in August with the Drum Corps International championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, the home of the NFL's Colts.

"This going to be insane," Hall said. "I've never been to a stadium outside Arizona. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Inspired to play trumpet by his older brother, Hall's passion is music.

"My love and my future depend on music," he said. "My plan is to go to college majoring in music education and minor in music theory, and then

**See TRUMPETER, Page 6**

## MCC transfers BLM land patent to city

### City has no immediate plan for development of property

**By CHELSEA CURTIS**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Mohave Community College has gifted Lake Havasu City with some land.

Last Friday, the college entered into a memorandum of understanding with the city, transferring over a Bureau of Land Management land patent right of 238.2 acres. The land is located on the north side of the city near Colt Drive.

The college's governing board agenda states that a city master plan would designate the area for parks and recreation. According to Mayor Mark Nexsen, however, the city has no immediate plans for the land.

"Maybe in 20 years we'll have use for it," he said. "We're not going to look a gift horse in the mouth, we're going to just allow that to be transferred to the city and, at a later date, we'll determine the best use for it."

Nexsen explained that, when the land transfer was first initiated in 2003, city officials had plans to create a park but faced opposition from residents in the area, essentially keeping it from moving forward.

When approached by an MCC representative approximately two months ago about restarting the land transfer process, Nexsen said he agreed to keep the city's window of opportunity open.

"Right now we're a growing city, why not at least look at what the possibility would be," he said, later adding that the city may be required to submit some sort of plan for the land within the first five years of the transfer.

As part of the BLM land patent right, James Jarman, MCC public information officer, said "the land is supposed to be used for the benefit of the public."

## Lake Havasu fish abundant this year, Game and Fish officials say

**By BRANDON MESSICK**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Arizona Game and Fish Department officials met with Havasu boaters on Tuesday to discuss the state of Lake Havasu at an annual open house. There, the department showed Havasu's fish populations to be healthy and abundant this year.

At Tuesday's open house, the Arizona Game and Fish Department discussed the results of a study conducted last fall to measure the health of Havasu's fish populations. The department captured more than 3,000 of Havasu's fish at 36 random survey stations, using electricity to stun fish before they were caught, measured, and released back into the lake.

In October and November, the department inspected 820 redear sunfish, 572

**See FISH, Page 5**

## Head-on collision leads to man booked on suspicion of DUI

**By CHELSEA CURTIS**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

A Lake Havasu City man was arrested Wednesday afternoon on suspicion of driving under the influence following a head-on collision in the 400 block of Hound Drive.

Dustin Young, in his late-40s, was allegedly operating a northbound vehicle in the area before crashing into a southbound vehicle head-on around 12:30 p.m., according to Sgt. Jerry Burns of the Lake Havasu City Police

Department. The two occupants of the southbound vehicle were transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries and Young was uninjured, said Burns.

Immediately after the head-on collision, Young allegedly began to reverse the vehicle he was operating, backing into a flat-bed truck, which resulted in a broken tail light, said Burns. The driver of the flat bed truck was not injured.

Burns said Young failed

**See COLLISION, Page 6**



Emergency personnel tend to the scene of an accident in the 400 block of Hound Drive Wednesday afternoon.

## OBITUARIES

Patrick Biasiotta, 85  
Gretchen Degelbeck, 83  
Rex White, 75

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